

Vice Admiral Keith Lippert's Memorial Day 2005 Message

Distinguished author and translator of Dante's *Inferno*, Thomas Williams Parsons once wrote, "On thy grave the rain shall fall from the eyes of a mighty nation!"

As citizens of the United States, we have long enjoyed the freedom and wealth of a strong, independent, and mighty Nation. However, it is important that we not forget at what cost our ideals, our rights, and our privileges have not only been forged but also maintained throughout our country's history.

Here at the Defense Logistics Agency, we say that we serve the war fighter and our American troops in both Operations IRAQI FREEDOM and ENDURING FREEDOM. Although we are constantly searching for and finding ways to improve our service to these brave men and women, let us not forget those whom we have lost.

Memorial Day is a day that we, as grateful Americans, dedicate to our fallen heroes. It is a day when we remember and honor the greatest and final sacrifice of those who gave their lives for our nation to live in freedom.

It is also a day on which I think we, as DLA employees, can pause and reflect and renew our promise to serve America's war fighter. Let us honor our brave men and women, both fallen and still fighting, by being ever mindful every day of the year of what they risked and what they sacrificed for us.

It is in tribute to their sacrifice that we, as Americans, pledge our respect and loyal support so that future generations, both here at home and across the world, may enjoy the freedom that our brave armed forces have fought for and won. On this Memorial Day, please join me in keeping them in our hearts and prayers.

KEITH W. LIPPERT
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Director